

Safety during the inspection should continue

By: Lt. Col. Mark Lynskey
179th Chief of Safety



It is Monday after the Initial Response inspection, and at least for my staff, we are breathing much easier. I

am sure most everyone on the base is as well, although some are still performing the Unit Compliance inspection.

I was extremely pleased with the safety mindset of our personnel during the IR. In fact, in the months prior to this weekend's IR many people came to our staff and pointed out safety concerns and asked for suggestions and advice to correct problems. I cannot emphasize how important this is! The safety staff is small; we are essentially subject matter experts. It is our job to disseminate the proper procedures and training as required.

Enforcement of safety measures comes from every one of you. Most importantly, safety mindset and practices should originate from supervisors and commanders. (In fact, Safety regulations and instructions specifically say the safety program belongs to the commander).

As I patrolled the base this weekend and while I was on the flight line with the rising sun yesterday, I was very impressed. The flight line looked immaculate thanks to CE's effort painting new lines (both on the flight line and the base in general). The Foreign Object Damage sweeps also made the ramp free of almost any debris. Vehicles moved in an orderly flow at proper speeds, despite our need to meet our time lines. Load teams operated like a synchronized team – with precision and safety. Seat belts were being worn -even for those short trips. Parking breaks and flashers were set on vehicles parked on the flight line. Reflective gear was evident everywhere.

Speaking of the reflective gear, many think it goes beyond common sense. Safety history however,

provides many instances of personnel in reduced visibility situations that have been hit and in some cases killed. Two such instances occurred during Desert Shield/Storm and again in Operation Enduring Freedom. One of these personnel was hit by a forklift, another by a truck. They became the first fatalities of these respective operations. The 123rd AW (Louisville) can attest to two individuals in the last year that were hit and injured.

It is very easy to slip into complacency and ignore safety items and to cut corners to get things done quicker. Safety history however, continues to demonstrate that complacency and short cuts lead to accidents that result in injury to our personnel and expenditure of assets that might be utilized elsewhere. Those that don't know history or pay attention to history are doomed to repeat it. Finally, safety is not a dog and pony show to be turned on for inspections only and ignored rest of the year.

I encourage you to keep yourself safe and free on injury, for yourself, your family and as a valuable asset to the 179th Airlift Wing.

News to Know

Community College of the Air Force

Congratulations to the following
October 2002 graduates:

TSgt Courtney Boling	AS
MSgt Robert Brown	APS
TSgt Mark Heacock	MXS
SMSgt Steve Mock	MSF
MSgt Doreen Music	AW
TSgt Leona Thomas	LS
TSgt John Yutuc	CF

Flight Engineer position available

The 164 Airlift Squadron has enlisted positions open. Contact CMS. Greg Eyster for complete information on position requirements. [DSN 696-6400](tel:DSN-696-6400); [Commercial 419-520-6400](tel:Commercial-419-520-6400); Gregory.Eyster@ohmans.af.mil

Interested in the Air Force Academy?

More than 80 slots a year at the Air Force Academy are allocated to the National Guard. These slots are typically easier to obtain than the slots offered through elected officials because of the applicant's prior service with the Guard. For more information contact base personnel or the command chief.

Attention skiers

179th AW group program ski packages are available for the 2002/2003 ski season. These packages start Sunday, Jan. 5th. The first week is January 5th through Saturday the 11th. Thereafter, you may use the pass once each week with Sunday defined as the beginning of the period and Saturday being the end of the week. Passes may only be utilized one day (Saturday) each weekly period under the "Once-A-Week" program. Passes cannot be used before 3PM. Our designated day is Saturday for those on the 'Once-A-Week' program."

Call LtC. Mark Lynskey at x284 for more package information and prices.